

**TESTIMONY**  
**House Bill 4205**

**HOUSE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**  
**COMMITTEE**

**February 23, 2011**

Thank you, Chairman Stamas and committee members.

My name is Richard Weiler, President of the Michigan Association of Police Organizations. I can be reached at 248-524-3200.

This will serve as our testimony regarding House Bill 4205, legislation to repeal PA 312.

The Michigan Association of Police Organizations is the largest statewide organization of certified law enforcement officers in Michigan. Our membership consists of the following groups:

Detroit Police Officers Association  
Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants  
Warren Police Officers Association  
Police Officers Labor Council  
Michigan Association of Police  
Michigan State Police Troopers Association  
Michigan State Police Command Officers Association  
Grand Rapids Police Officers Association

On behalf of the membership of MAPO, we wish to share our unequivocal opposition to the outright elimination of binding arbitration for Michigan's police officers and firefighters.

In these tough times, we should allow data to inform our decision-making. There is no data to support the elimination of 312. Certain elected officials, for their own political benefit, have turned 312 into the source of all that is wrong with municipal finances. This is clearly not the case. Declining revenue sharing and declining property tax revenues have placed local budgets in uncharted negative waters. Municipal employers are now choosing to go to 312 because they know arbitrators are recognizing their “inability to pay” and are siding with the employer.

MAPO has consistently indicated an openness to updating 312 to streamline and improve the process.

Like the old saying about democracy, 312 is the worst system except for all the others.

We urge the committee members and the Michigan House of Representatives to embrace “common-sense” reforms.

Thank you for your time and attention